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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The fifteenth convention of the Society will be held at Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday, December 30. It is proposed that the delegates to the convention have luncheon at one o'clock followed by the meeting for the transaction of business. In the evening there will be a dinner for members of the Society and their guests.

By the rules of the Society the convention is held at the time and place of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, unless otherwise provided for by the officers of the Society. In view of the distance of Atlanta from the larger scientific centers the question was submitted to the members of the council. Twenty-nine voted to meet at Atlanta, two to hold the meeting elsewhere or not at all, and three were doubtful.

There is every reason to believe that a successful meeting for the transaction of business will be held at Atlanta. Members of the council who have been influential in the development of the Society have expressed their intention to be present, and it may be expected that the chapters will be adequately represented by their delegates. As the scientific programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the affiliated societies will be less crowded than usual the convention will have time to consider the important questions that will be brought before it.

Precise information concerning both the luncheon and the dinner will be found in the printed program of the American Association given to all persons on registering in Atlanta. A notice will also be posted in the Registration Bureau at the headquarters of the Association.

J. McK. C.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

It is worth while to inquire what characteristics belong to such conditions of membership as are desirable for the standards of the Society. Is it not clear that to be satisfactory conditions for membership should conform to the following standards:

1. They should be clear; that is, so brief and definite that they can be easily comprehended, and cannot be easily confused or misunderstood.

2. They should be simple; so formulated in language and in character that they may be quickly and readily applied with equality in all cases.

3. They should be distinctive; so that they will promptly differentiate between the different classes of membership and between the different individuals who may be presented for consideration.

4. They should be stimulating; so that every member shall be encouraged to undertake further research, and that every non-member may be aroused to do something worthy of membership in the organization, because it commands general approval and accomplishes something useful.

Do the present conditions of membership as set down in the Constitution conform to these characteristics? Personally, I incline to the opinion that they do, although I am often led to think that they have not been carefully examined by those who have been called upon to utilize them when electing members. H. B. W.

A NATIONAL CONCEPTION

I suspect that one fundamental difficulty with which as a society we have to deal, is the probable fact that few people appreciate the necessity of organization and executive work in a society of national scope. I feel certain that until the advent of the *QUARTERLY*, only a few of our members—the older ones—ever realized that a national organization existed. “Sigma Xi” simply stood for a certain proficiency in science, at least to a majority of our members, who were—and are—perfectly content to let the few “run” the affairs of the Chapter. I suspect that the Chapter interest in the general organization cannot be much stronger than the average interest of each individual member in his own chapter. R.